

We claim:

1. A method for treating a lupus patient characterized by the presence of anti-dsDNA comprising administering to the patient a therapeutic composition in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for administration to a patient selected from the group consisting of peptides having sequence identity with ribosomal protein S1 which are immunoreactive with anti-dsDNA and anti-idiotypic antibody or antibody fragments immunoreactive with anti-dsDNA antibodies.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the peptide is between four and forty amino acids in length.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the peptide is conjugated to a carrier molecule or is a fusion protein.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is a peptide administered to a patient in an amount effective to induce tolerance.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is anti-idiotypic antibody immunoreactive with anti-dsDNA antibody.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is administered in a dosage effective to kill anti-dsDNA antibody producing cells.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is administered in a dosage effective to decrease the amount of anti-dsDNA antibody levels in the patient.

8. A therapeutic composition in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for administration to a patient selected from the group consisting of peptides having sequence identity with ribosomal protein S1 which are immunoreactive with anti-dsDNA

and anti-idiotypic antibody or antibody fragments immunoreactive with anti-dsDNA antibodies.

9. The composition of claim 8 wherein the peptide is between four and forty amino acids in length.

10. The composition of claim 8 wherein the peptide is conjugated to a carrier molecule or is a fusion protein.

11. The composition of claim 8 wherein the composition is a peptide administered to a patient in an amount effective to induce tolerance.

12. The composition of claim 8 wherein the composition is anti-idiotypic antibody immunoreactive with anti-dsDNA antibody.

13. The composition of claim 12 wherein the antibody is administered in a dosage effective to kill anti-dsDNA antibody producing cells.

14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the antibody is administered in a dosage effective to decrease the amount of anti-dsDNA antibody levels in the patient.